

## Jeffersen Memerial Ferest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road PO Box 467 Fairdale, KY 40118

502/368-5404

www.meanstrialRenest.com www.metro-parks.org forestý lauisvillaky gav perka@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Monday Saturday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sunday/Holidays

The Welcome Center Isyaurdestination for maps, gift items, program reservations, camping reservations. Forest information.

#### Directions

From F65 south, Take the Gene Snyder Freevay (I-265) west and eath at New Cut Road. Turn left, go about one mile, and furnight onto Mitchell Hill Road. Follow the signs to the Forest.

#### Mission Statement

The mission of Louisville Metro Parks is to create a City of Parks and enhance the quality of life for dilizens of Lou sville Metro by invintaining and accurring autractive, vibrant parks and offering safe, diverse recreation programs, and protecting these lands and resources for future generations.

# Announcing Wilderness Louisville, Inc.

ith great excitement and anticipation we formally announce the creation of a 501(c)(3) non-profit to raise funds in support of Jefferson

Memorial Forest/Metro Parks' Natural Areas Division! This new group, Wilderness Louisville, Inc., was incorporated in June of 2013 and quickly set about building its board of directors and obtaining the ability to accept tax-deductible donations. That approval was received from the IRS

this past July and the group is actively working to grow its fundraising capacity.

In some ways, formation of Wilderness Louisville brings the Forest full-circle to honor its past. Yet, equally important, its formation sets the Forest on a path towards meeting its full potential as Louisville's community forest and a keystone natural attraction of south Louisville's South Points Scenic Area. The name Wilderness Louisville pays homage to a previous, but long disbanded group, Wilderness Jefferson County, which worked in the 1970's and early 1980's to raise funds for land acquisition at the Forest. Furthermore, we are honored to reacquaint the Forest with former Jefferson County Judge Executive and Louisville

Mayor, David L. Armstrong, who has assumed the role of the board's first chair. As many who have frequented the Forest over the years are aware, Mayor Armstrong was instrumental in a number of the key developments at the Forest in the 1990s including acquisition of the Horine Reservation, renovation of the Welcome Center, and creation of the Forest's educational programs.

The board has already held its first fundraiser as

this past May witnessed the first-annual Forest Fest silent auction with proceeds supporting the Forest's efforts to expand availability of naturebased recreation in West Louisville. Coming up, please mark your calendars for the Mayor's Fall Outdoor Adventure on Saturday, October 18th where Wilderness Louisville will host a brunch fundraiser to jumpstart a crowd-funding campaign with a goal of raising \$10,000 towards construction of new program shelters adjacent to the Forest's

> environmental education center. These new shelters will help us expand the Forest's capacity for offering environmental and recreational programming to area public, private, and parochial schools. Beyond these initial modest efforts, the board is working to build its capacity to support more substantial fundraising necessary to implement the Forest's 2009 master plan which calls for approximately \$50 million in infrastructure investment including new educational and recreational facilities. These facilities, including expanded trails and a new campground will continue to make Jefferson Memorial Forest one of the premier destinations in Kentucky

Tom Armstrong, Retired Dan Caudill, Caudill Seed Co. SteVon Edwards, Outdoor Afro KY Ryan King, Quest Outdoors, Inc. Bennett Knox, JMF

Current

Wilderness Louisville

**Board of Directors** 

Chair • David Armstrong

Public Service Commission

Vice-Chair • Shannon Graves

Cemex, Inc.

Treasurer • Sara Massey

Metro Government

Secretary • Theresa Zawacki

Metro Government

Dudley Saunders, Retired Lynn Rippy, YouthBuild Louisville

> for experiencing the great outdoors and nature at its finest.

For more information on Wilderness Louisville, Inc. including information on how you can support its mission, please visit wildernesslouisville.org.

Bennett Knox, Parks Administrator



## GOOD TIMES AT WEST LOUISVILLE APPRECIATION DAYS

As part of Jefferson Memorial Forest's efforts to extend nature-based educational and recreational opportunities to west Louisville, on July 26th, Forest staff and volunteers partnered with Outdoor Afro, Kentucky, the Healing Futures Fellows, and Bike Sense to showcase such outdoor recreational activities in Shawnee Park during West Louisville Appreciation Days. The effort is happening with support of the National Parks Service through their Recreational Trails and Conservation Assistance Program. During the event, participants completed a survey which will help Metro Parks determine current recreational usage patterns and obtain feedback on the type of nature-based recreational opportunities residents would like to see. One lucky survey respondent took home a new bike courtesy of Parkside Bikes on Bardstown Road!

Survey results will feed into a planning effort that's underway and which received a boost of support as a result of Mayor Fischer allocating \$170,000 in the most recent budget to support planning for infrastructure such as canoe launches, safe fishing areas, and development of a satellite stewardship center in Shawnee Park to be called the Shawnee Outdoor Learning (SOL) center. Jefferson Memorial Forest would like to thank District 5 Metro Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton for her support. And we'd also like to thank Wilderness Louisville for conducting a silent auction this past May to support the event. Please show your appreciation by thanking the businesses (below)which donated items to the silent auction, which helped raise over \$1,600.



All about Kids
Bicycle Sport
Caudill Seed Co.
Derby Dinner Playhouse
Fred's Smokehouse at Jim Beam
Iroquois Amphitheater
Jimbo's Barbeque

Kaelin's featured at Mulligan's Legendz Hair Salon Melissa Hatfield - Artist Paintball Asylum Parkside Bikes Peace of the Earth Ouest Outdoors Riverside Rocksport Shack in the Back BBQ Sister Bean's Coffee Sky Zone Indoor Trampoline Park Swags Shoes The Fishery Restaurant
The Floral Grind
Tuscany Italian Restaurant
Whole Foods
YouthBuild Louisville



## **VOLUNTEER NEWS**

Our restructured volunteer program introduced in January has been a success, adding 20 new volunteers to our growing family! In addition to adding general volunteers, several have jumped feet first into additional trainings, earnings specialties in canoeing, animal care and team building. It's not too late for you to join, too!

We have a continued need for weekday volunteers willing to work with children and young adults. Schools and groups come to the Forest to learn team building, climb the Alpine Tower, learn about animal adaptations, and experience nature. Volunteers assist by leading small groups in these endeavors, providing guidance, a mentor and assuring safety. Training is provided.

Volunteer orientation presents our mission and volunteer opportunities in a brief, two-hour introduction. Optional trainings are presented cafeteria-style, allowing each volunteer to customize their volunteer experience by specializing in the topic(s) of their choice.

Fresh out of orientation, general volunteers can participate in project work days, staff festival booths or assist in the office and play areas. The volunteer experience can be enhanced by choosing one or more specialty topics. Specialties are available in Service and Teaching areas. Service Specialties (SS) are defined as those services specific to that purpose, such as land management, trail or other duties largely outside the public view.

Teaching Specialists (TS) are volunteer educators who work closely with our program department. They lead classes and groups for both public and private programs, interpret to the public and provide assistance as requested.

The new design offers a number of advantages:

- Orientations disseminate vital information in a brief, two-hour period.
- Volunteers are ready for involvement in as little as two hours.
- Optional specialization allows a volunteer to customize their experience.
- Volunteers train only in topics of interest. No wasted training time.
- Enhanced cross-over opportunities between service and teaching areas.
- Training schedule includes general interest sessions to enhance the volunteer experience.

Orientations for new, approved volunteers are held monthly on the first Monday of each month, from 10 am to noon. Periodic weekend orientations and trainings may be scheduled as needed; however, our greatest need is for weekday volunteers.

If you would like to join us, or simply want to hear more about our program, please contact our Volunteer Coordinator at <a href="Minipage: Sherry.Wright@louisvilleky.gov">Sherry.Wright@louisvilleky.gov</a>.

### Local Groups Lend a Helping Hand

**UPS** employees assisted with tree planting in the Clifton Heights Greenway this spring, furthering our ongoing efforts to restore this lovely little neighborhood green space.

Volunteers from **eBay Enterprises** came together after work one Saturday to walk the Greenbelt section of the Louisville Loop and remove litter.

Eleven **Humana** volunteers spent a Saturday morning working at Waverly Park. Using hand tools, they hardened the trail surface of the new Playground Loop trail, assuring it was ready and safe for hikers.

Altria/Philip Morris sent 35 employees to spend an afternoon helping us remove wintercreeper vines at Caperton Swamp in June. In addition to removing multiple bags of invasive vines, they donated new gloves, trash bags and insect spray for future volunteer events.

Very special thanks to volunteer and **U** of **L** professor **Steve Kendra**, for bringing so many delightful students to Trail Team and Land Steward project days. His dedication and enthusiasm is contagious and many students have taken up his challenge to give back to the Natural Areas parks. The students have attended both routine project days and special invasive plant removal days designed and led by Steve. Thanks, Steve, for being a great leader, and thanks to all your students who lent their smiles and hard work to our projects.

**Bellarmine University** sent 33 freshmen to spend a morning with us at Caperton Swamp clearing invasive vines (left). After 80 man hours and mulitple bags of gathered vines, they were proud and tired!

Each individual makes a group stronger – please join in. Each group makes a difference – please sign up. Each event furthers the mission and makes our community stronger – please schedule your group's event today! Call 502/380-1753.



Does your group have what it takes to make a difference in a Natural Areas park? Give us a call! We would love to coordinate a volunteer event especially for you. We have projects suitable for single-day service projects as well as Eagle Scouts. If you need a project, contact Volunteer Coordinator Sherry Wright at 380-1753 or at <a href="mailto:sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov">sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov</a>.



## Public Program Calendar: September to February

The Forest offers programs for all ages. For more information visit our website at <u>memorialforest.com</u> or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help make reservations, give directions to the program location, or provide a complete schedule of programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel, change or postpone program dates and venues, due to insufficient registration, conditions or weather. In such cases rain checks will be provided.

## September outdoor skills: ORIENTEERING I

Saturday, September 13, 9 a.m.-Noon

Map and landscape reading are skills every outdoor person needs to possess. This program equips participants with the skills necessary to read and interpret topographic maps and locate destinations. This in-field set of exercises is truly a hands-on learning experience. Ages 12 and up. Program meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$10 Per Person/ Per Class- Preregistration is required.

## FAMILY CANOE DAY AT TOM WALLACE LAKE

Saturday, September 20, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Get yourself geared-up for a family treat and special day of fun! Take a canoe out on the lake, and spend time on the shore learning about the incredible creatures that live below. Are you ready to start paddling but not sure of where to start? Join us to discover the basics of canoeing. Spend some time on the lake practicing your skills. Don't worry if you are new to canoeing – all equipment (canoe, paddles, and personal flotation devices) is provided. This program is suitable for beginning paddlers (ages 5 and to adult.) Fee: Activities Free; \$10 canoe rental

### October

## THIRD ANNUAL URBAN WILDERNESS CANOE ADVENTURES

Shawnee Park, Friday, October 3 and Riverview Park, Saturday, October 4, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

This free event is designed for individuals and families who are new to canoeing to experience the water in safe and stable voyageur canoes which hold 9 people.

All safety equipment and trained staff are provided. The event is open to anyone ages 3 and older. Wear comfortable outdoor clothing that can get wet; no flip flops please. All children under 18 must have a waiver signed by a parent or legal guardian.

## MAYOR'S FALL HIKE AND OUTDOOR ADVENTURE

Saturday, October 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join Mayor Greg Fischer for a familyfriendly fall exploration of Jefferson Memorial Forest. The event is held near the Forest's Environmental Education Center and offers a wide variety of activities showcasing all the Forest has to offer. Forest staff and volunteers introduce visitors to our native plant gardens, animal exhibits, and education pond. Activities for children are provided in the Nature Explore area. Climb the 52-ft Alpine Tower, try your hand at archery, join an expert on a guided hike, or take advantage of a canoeing demonstration on Mitchell Hill Lake. Come early for the Four de Lis Classic 5K race at 8 AM. Free pumpkin decorating and hay rides. Food will be available for purchase as part of a fundraiser, sponsored by Wilderness Louisville, Inc. to support the Forest. Meets at the Horine Reservation. Event is FREE.

### November

#### LEARN FROM HISTORY: SLEEPING IN STYLE - WIGWAMS!

November, 8, 1-4 p.m.

Help Jefferson Memorial Forest build an American Indian wigwam! Using materials from the forest participants will begin hand construction on a wigwam. How were they constructed, what materials were used, and how were they made into livable family shelters in all seasons of the year? The focus of Learn from History events is to experience various aspects of the lives of the first indigenous people of Kentucky.

Through active involvement participants will build, plant, make, and cook using actual materials and processes. Participants must come ready to learn not only from success, but also from failure. Due to the hands-on nature of this program minimum age is 10, and each event is limited to 16 participants. Fee \$15/person. Preregistration is required through the Jefferson Memorial Forest Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Program meets in the Horine Section of Jefferson Memorial Forest.

#### FOX: FAMILIES OUTSIDE X-PLORING FALL IN GEORGE ROGERS CLARK Saturday, November 15, 9-11:30 a.m.

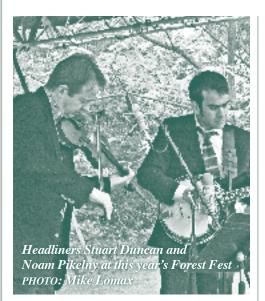
Get your Family Outside eXploring a different Metro Park each season. A Naturalist will guide your family on an exploration in George Rogers Clark Park. Hike, search for tracks, discover wildlife food that is needed for the winter, build forts, play in leaves, get away from technology and become a closer family. This is a great opportunity to play with your kids and let them experience nature. Bring water bottles, a snack and dress for the weather. We will be outside the whole time. Warning: You will get dirt on your shirt! Meets in the parking lot. Preregistration required. Fee: \$8/Family

## February VALENTINE'S DAY ROMANTIC HIKE AND RETREAT

February, TBD

This favorite annual event includes a candlelit hike and delicious desserts! It sells out every year, so check the website for dates and times!

### **FOREST PROGRAMS**



## Tenth Annual Forest Fest a Huge Success!

This year marked the tenth annual Forest Fest, and what a successful year it was! The weather was good, the crowd and vendors were great, and the music even better! Forest Fest favorites Whiskey Bent Valley Boys started off the day, followed by the upand-coming Nu-Blu, from North Carolina. American Drive-formerly JD Crowe's band the New South—warmed up the stage for the phenomenal headliners, Grammy-nominated bluegrass artist Noam Pikelny and eight-time International Bluegrass Music Association Fiddler of the Year, Stuart Duncan. The crowd enjoyed the bands, BBQ from Shack in the Back, ice cream from Ehrler's, and Heine Brothers coffee, while perusing crafts from some of the finest local craftspeople around. We heard lots of praise for the addition this year of wine from Brooks Hill Winery. The children in attendance kept busy with paintball, a bouncy house, naturethemed activities, and dancing and playing in the straw. The music continued well after the bands packed up, with many local bluegrass musicians jamming at the campground until their fingers got too cold.

A heartfelt thank you to presenting sponsor District 13 Metro Councilwoman Vicki Welch, and a huge thank you to all the sponsors, partner organizations, staff, and volunteers who made the success possible. Such a great time was had by all, and we can't wait for Forest Fest '15!

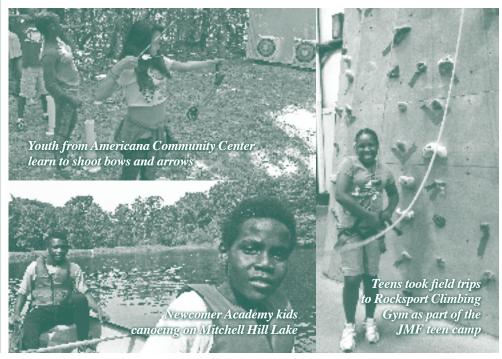
## Another Record Year for JMF Summer Programs!

Once again, we have had a record-setting year for summer camps! Using a school bus instead of 15 passenger vans to shuttle campers from The Louisville Tennis Center at Joe Creason Park allowed us to expand the enrollment of campers to an all-time high. Perennial camp favorites such as Water Wonders and Adventure Camp filled to a larger capacity than ever. Campers were all smiles as they learned about nature while exploring the forest and doing such activities as cooking s'mores over a soda can stove they made in ECO Xtreme camp; decoding a secret message from a forest gnome in Fairies, Trolls, and Gnome camp; exploring their creative side in Art in Nature; petting a snake in Animal Adventures; and traveling to the Falls of the Ohio for our history-themed nature camp in partnership with Locust Grove.

In addition to our traditional summer camp offerings, JMF added some new programs this summer for community centers and programs that serve at-risk youth in Louisville. Each community center had the opportunity to join Forest staff for a guided hike twice throughout the summer, allowing over 250 youth of all ages and from all over Louisville a chance to get out in nature!

Secondly, JMF offered a new teen camp this year for agencies including the Gentlemen's Academy, Family Scholar House, Americana Community Center, Louisville Metro Youth Detention Services, and Newcomer Academy. In addition to hiking and exploring Shannon's Pond and Mitchell Hill Lake, teens had the opportunity to canoe at Long Run Park, fish at Tom Wallace Lake, shoot bows and arrows at our archery range, climb the wall at Rocksport Climbing Gym, and challenge themselves on the Louisville Mega Caverns Mega Quest course. Of course, no summer camp is complete without water games, giant slip-n-slides, and popsicles! We received wonderful feedback from participants and agency staff alike--one gentleman said he wanted to stay in the forest because it was "much more relaxing than the city". Another, after insisting we were not going to get him in a canoe, said that canoeing felt "graceful". By lunch time, we couldn't get him out! We look forward to continuing these adventures as part of Louisville ECHO (Louisville is Engaging Children in the Outdoors) program in the coming school year.

A great deal of thanks to our summer camp program staff, Matt, Christa, Ryan, Alysa, Jonathan, Vicki, Georgia, Nadia, Kristie, MaryClare, and Charles for their very hard work this summer making these programs so successful!





### LAND MANAGEMENT NOTES

### Kentucky Gladecress Restoration Work at McNeely Lake Park

The Natural Areas Land Management staff and volunteers have done some important work restoring critical habitat for Kentucky Gladecress this year. Kentucky Gladecress (Leavenworthia exigua var. laciniata), a diminutive member of the mustard family, was listed as a Federally Threatened species in 2013. Kentucky Gladecress is a Kentucky endemic species found nowhere else on our planet other than southern Jefferson and northern Bullitt counties. Due to land use changes, mainly development, habitats for Kentucky Gladecress have been eliminated and therefore this species is becoming quite scarce. The status "Threatened" provides this species with certain protections from pressures like land development and land use changes which would negatively impact populations. The Endangered Species act provides for two categories of protection for imperiled species, "Threatened" and "Endangered". An "Endangered" species is considered to be in danger of becoming extinct throughout all or a significant portion of its range; whereas, a "Threatened" species is likely to become Endangered within the foreseeable future.

Kentucky Gladecress is found mainly in habitats called cedar glades. A glade is simply an open space in a forest. The presence of a glade within a forest can be the result of various forces and conditions. Glades where Kentucky Gladecress is found have thin soils overlying outcrops of a geological feature called the Laurel Dolomite. Dolomite is similar to limestone but has a higher content of magnesium. The term "cedar glade" is due to the dominance of Eastern Redcedar (Juniperus virginiana) within them. Historically, these glades remained free of woody plants due to periodic burns on the landscape, both naturally occurring and those of human origin, and also from grazing by large land mammals like Bison and Elk. As this region was settled, most of the glade habitats were incorporated into farming activity like cow pastures and hay fields. Later many of these locations fell to residential and industrial development. Many of the glades untouched by development

were allowed to grow up with woodlands and thickets. Left without the forces to keep them free from woody plant species, the glades became wooded and thus too shady to support Kentucky Gladecress. In addition, accumulation of soil from leaves and humus was unfavorable for this species. We normally see Kentucky Gladecress thriving among gravely soils along the edges of the Laurel Dolomite outcrops. This thin soil habitat tends to be extremely wet during the winter and spring and extremely dry during the summer and fall. Observing aerial photos from the 1950s to the present, it is easy to see a progression of woody vegetation closing in these glades, squeezing Kentucky Gladecress habitat to smaller and smaller remnants.

The Natural Areas Division, working closely with the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, has been carrying out habitat improvement work through a grant from the US Fish and Wildlife Service. In the initial stage of the project we documented the botanical diversity in three project sites. This spring, Land Management staff and volunteers carried out detailed mapping and counts of Kentucky Gladecress in each of these sites. The three locations were selected based on levels of habitat loss and surrounding pressures in order to demonstrate what could be done for Gladecress recovery in a variety of circumstances. The first site was in good condition other than dense and encroaching stands of Eastern Redcedar and other woody plants along the glade margins. The second site also had encroaching woody vegetation, but also had heavy infestations of non-native invasive shrubs in and around the glades including the usual suspects of Bush

Honevsuckle. Privet and Multiflora Rose. The third site exhibited the same conditions as the second but to a more extreme degree and also had heavy soil accumulations over the



dolomite outcrops. This summer, the actual prescription for habitat improvement began with removing woody plants, primarily Eastern Redcedar, within and along the edges of the glades. This work was essential to reverse the years of natural succession in the absence of glade-maintaining forces like grazing and fire. Over the next few years we will also be managing invasive vegetation around each glade to prevent re-infestation. Through these efforts, we hope to see increased numbers of Kentucky Gladecress as well as other associated cedar glade loving plant species like False Aloe (Manfreda virginica), Little Bluestem (Shizachyrium scoparium), Whorled Rosinweed (Silphium trifoliatum), Wild Petunia (Ruellia humilis) to name a few. We would also like to use the lessons learned through this process to fuel further efforts for habitat restoration in McNeely Park to increase the populations of Kentucky Gladecress.





KentuckyOne Health Four de Lis 5K Race 8 a.m. Saturday, October 18 10 a.m. 2 p.m.

PRESENTED BY

QUEST OUTDOORS

THIRD ANNUAL



## Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures

An Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventure is coming to Louisville! Join Metro Parks and our partners and canoe the Ohio River, taking off from both Riverview and Shawnee Parks. We will showcase the beauty of the great outdoors... in our own backyard!

#### SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shawnee Park • 4501 West Broadway 40211 END OF SOUTHWESTERN PKWY, NORTH SIDE OF THE PARK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Riverview Park • 8202 Greenwood Rd 40258



Program sponsored by District 5 Metro Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton & District 12 Metro Councilman Rick Blackwell

Jefferson Memorial Forest 11311 Mitchell Hill Road PD Sox 467 Fairdale, KY 40118

tel • 502/368-5404 email • forest@louisvilleky.gov web • memorialforest.com





Greg Fischer, Mayor Louisville Metro Council





## **ECHO PROGRAM GROWING BY BOUNDS**



TOYOTA MOTOR MANUFACTURING, REYTUCKY, INC. byotageorgetown.com





The Forest's Louisville ECHO program continues to expand. We are pleased to announce that the Louisville ECHO program has received additional financial support as we seek to sustain and grow the program's environmental education and outdoor recreation components. In 2014, the program received an additional \$7,500 from Toyota Motor Manufacturing of Kentucky and also \$42,295 in funding from the U.S. Forest Service to support the program through the current school year. In addition, for 2015 we've successfully leveraged

Mayor Fischer's recent budgetary enhancement for an out-of school time youth program as a result of a successful \$25,000 challenge cost share grant from the National Park Service. That funding will be used to support field trip activities for at-risk youth including some to Mammoth Cave National Park. It will also support the second annual Outdoor Recreation component at West Louisville Appreciation Days and the Fourth Annual Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures program in July and October, respectively, of next year.